CHAPTER XXV

Glossary

By Dr. Robert P. Elmer

Allowance. Change in aim to compensate for windage.

Arbalist. A crossbow.

Armguard. A piece of leather or other stiff material worn on the left forearm to protect it from injury by the bowstring. Also called *Bracer*.

Arrow horn. A V-shaped piece of horn, fibre or similar material inserted in the posterior end of an arrow and containing the nock. Modern arrows are sometimes fitted with an aluminum ferrule to which the name may probably be extended. (See *Nock 3*.)

Arrow plate. A thin piece of hard material set in the bow, where it is crossed by the arrow, to prevent wear.

Arrowsmith. A fletcher.

Arrow stave. A slender rod of wood ready for further shaping to form a stele.

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Artillery. A word originally meaning bows and arrows.

Archer's rood. A measure of 7½ yards.

Ascham (aś-kam). 1. A tall, narrow cabinet for bows, arrows and other tackle.
2. A portable case for bows and arrows.

Back. 1. The flat side of a bow.
2. To glue a strip of wood or other elastic material to the back of the self bow.

Backed bow. A bow whose back and belly are of different strips of wood glued together. Rawhide or other animal tissue is sometimes used for backing.

Backing. Material from which the back of a backed bow is made.

Balloon feather. A vane of parabolic outline.

Barrelled arrow. An arrow that is larger in the middle than at the ends.

Bass. The straw back of a target.

Belly. The round side of a bow.

Bend. 1. To string a bow, not to draw it.
2. The space between the bent bow and its string.

Bobtailed arrow. An arrow whose shaft is a cone with the base at the pile.

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Bolt. A short, thick arrow used in a cross-bow.

Bow-arm. The arm that supports the bow.

Bow-hand. The hand that holds the bow.

Bowman. An archer.

Bow stave. See *Stave*.

Bowyer. A maker of bows.

Brace. To bend a bow.

Bracer. An armguard.

Butt. An artificial embankment of sod or earth against which a target or prick is placed.

Cast. 1. The coefficients of resilience of a bow.
2. The distance a given bow can shoot.
3. A tilt in the back of a bow out of the perpendicular to the plane passing through the string and the longitudinal center of the bow.
4. Any lateral warping of a bow.

Chested arrow. An arrow whose shaft is a cone with the base at the nock.

Chrysal (kriś–al). A transverse fault in the belly of a bow caused by compression. Also called *Pinch*.

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Cloth yard. A measure of probably 27 inches.

Clout. 1. A small cloth or other white object placed on the ground as a mark in long distance shooting. The modern clout is a straw backed, white faced target with a black spot in the center. It is 30 inches in diameter and is set on the ground at an angle of 60 degrees.
2. A hit in the clout.

Cock feather. The vane that stands at right angles to the nock.

Come. A bow is said to *come* when it bends too much in one place.

Composite bow. A bow made of three layers of materials, usually sinew back, wood center and horn belly.

Crest. Colored rings painted about the shaft of an arrow above the feathers, for identification.

Crossbow. A missive weapon formed by a bow fixed athwart a stock in which there is a groove or barrel to direct the missile, a notch or catch to hold the string when the bow is bent, and a trigger to release it. (Century Dictionary.)

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Curl. A sudden turn in the grain of the wood of a bow.

Cut the gold. An expression signifying the apparent dropping across the gold of an arrow which falls short.

Cut the mark. Similar to *Cut the gold* but used for any object aimed at, as in rovers or hunting.

Damp sap. A bluish line between the heart and sap-wood in yew.

Dead loose. A sluggish release.

Dead shaft. An arrow of dull, heavy flight.

Direction. Same as *Line of aim.*

Direct vision. The formation of the sight image at the *macula lutea.* Whatever is seen most clearly is in direct vision.

Double round. Two identical rounds shot in succession and the results added.

Down wind. A wind blowing from the archer to the target.

Draw. 1. To pull the bowstring back as in shooting.
2. The distance the string is pulled.

Draw a feather. To strip the web from the shaft of a feather.

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Drawing arm. The arm that draws the string. Also called *Shaft arm.*

Drawing fingers. The first three fingers of the drawing hand.

Drawing hand. The hand of the drawing arm. The right hand in right handed archers and the left in left handed. Also called *Shaft hand.*

Draw through a bow. To draw so far that the pile passes the belly.

Drift. Same as *Windage.*

Elevation. The relative height of the pile to the nock in aiming an arrow.

End. 1. In England, three arrows shot consecutively.

2. In America, six arrows shot consecutively or in pairs (threes).

3. The position of a mark.

Eye. The upper loop of a string.

Fast. An exclamation used as a warning of danger, as is "Fore" in golf.

Feather. 1. A vane.

2. A layer of the grain in yew.

3. The feathered end or string end of an arrow. (Century Dictionary.)

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4. To fit with a feather or feathers, as an arrow. (Century Dictionary.)

Feather in. To imbed an arrow in its mark as far as the feathers.

Finger tip. A leather thimble to protect a drawing finger.

Fish. The joint of the two limbs of a yew bow.

Fish tail. A staggering arrow.

Fistmele. A measure of 6 inches. It is believed by many to be the correct distance between the string and the bent bow and is usually found by placing the fist upright upon the inside of the bow handle and raising the thumb.

Fletch. To feather an arrow. (Century Dictionary.)

Fletcher. 1. A maker of arrows.
2. One who feathers arrows.
3. A maker of bows and arrows. (Century Dictionary.)
Also called Arrowsmith.

Flight arrow. A light arrow for flight shooting.

Flight shot. A shot for great distance without regard to aim.

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Follow the string. An expression denoting the permanent set or curve that a bow takes on from being bent and drawn.

Footed arrow. An arrow whose anterior portion is formed of a piece of hard wood spliced to the main part of the shaft.

Foot. A piece of hard wood spliced on the anterior end of a shaft and forming an integral part of it. Also called pileing and footing.

Fret. A fault in the wood of a bow, such as a chrysal or corroded spot.

Grip. 1. The handle of a bow.
2. The manner of grasping a bow.

Gone. An arrow is gone when it fiies above the target.

Handle. The part of a bow that is grasped in the hand.

Hard handled bow. A bow which does not bend at the grip.

Head. Same as *pile*.

He! He! The time honored word of call used by archers in hailing each other from a distance. (Dr. Weston.)

Hen feathers. The two vanes that lie at an angle of 30 degrees to the nock.

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High feathered. Having long, deep feathers.

Hit. 1. To strike a mark with an arrow.
2. The striking of a mark with an arrow. If the mark be a target the arrow must remain in it, neither rebounding nor passing through.

Holding. Keeping an arrow fully drawn for a moment before it is loosed.

Home. An arrow is *home* when fully drawn.

Horn. A bow tip.

Horn spoon. 1. A hit in the petticoat.
2. The petticoat.

Hoyle-shooting. Same as roving.

Indirect vision. Formation of the sight image at some part of the retina other than the *macula lutea*. (Century Dictionary.)

In game. In good shooting cue.

Keeping a length. Shooting with consistently correct elevation at a given distance.

Keeping compass. Same as *keeping a length*.

Kick. The jar to the hand caused by a discharging bow, due to faulty construction of the weapon.

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Lapping. A wrapping of thread around a bow to strengthen it or around a string to protect it from abrasion. Also called *Serving*, *Whipping* and *Wrapping*.

Lay the body in the bow. An old English expression which suggests that drawing should be done with the shoulders as well as the arms.

Length. A distance to be shot.

Let fly. To release an arrow.

Line of aim. The vertical plane of an imaginary line from the archer's eye to the centre of the target. Also called *Direction*.

Longbow. The name commonly given to the bow drawn by hand and discharging a long feathered arrow, as distinguished from crossbows of all kinds, especially to bows having a length of five feet or over, as the bow of war and of the chase of the middle ages of Europe, those of some savage tribes, those of Japan, etc. (Century Dictionary.)

Loose. 1. To release the string when fully drawn.

2. The manner of releasing the string when drawn.

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Low feathered. Having short shallow feathers.

Mark. 1. Anything that is shot at.

2. To signal results in clout shooting.

Marker. A man who stands near a clout to signal to the archers the results of their shots.

Nock. 1. The groove for the string in the tip of a bow.

2. The slot in the end of an arrow.

3. The piece of hard material at the end of an arrow which contains the slot for the string. Also called *Arrow horn.*

4. The act of slipping the loop of the string into a nock.

5. The act of fitting an arrow to the string.

Nocking point. The exact place on the string where an arrow should be nocked, often marked with thread or ink.

Noose. The loop at the lower end of the string.

Overbowed. Using a bow beyond one's strength.

Overstrung. Said of a bow whose string is too short.

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Pair. In archery three arrows, not two, are called a pair.

Paper game. Shooting at a small bit of paper, often about an inch in diameter, which is pinned to a butt.

Penny. A measure of weight for arrows equal to 7¼ grains.

Petticoat. 1. A hit in the petticoat.

2. The rim of the target outside of the white ring. It has no value. Also called *Horn Spoon* and *Spoon.*

Piecing. Same as *Foot.*

Pile. A ferrule covering the anterior end of an arrow. It may be sharp or blunt and made of any hard substance. Also called *Head, Tip* and *Point.*

Pin. A tiny knot in yew wood, appearing on the surface as a black spot.

Pinch. Same as *Chrysal.*

Play in the hand. Said of a bow which bends at the grip.

Point. 1. Same as *Pile.*

2. A unit of scoring.

3. A unit of a specified total, based on the highest score or greatest number of hits at given distances.

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Point blank. 1. Aim taken at a distance where the point of aim and centre of the target coincide.

2. Aim taken at a distance so short that the arrow flies in a trajectory that is practically flat.

Point of aim. An object so situated that if the tip of a fully drawn arrow be brought into the imaginary line between it and the eye, that arrow, when loosed, if all other factors be perfect, will hit the centre of the target.

Popinjay. A small wooden bird on the top of a pole, used as a mark.

Prick. A small mark on a butt.

Prick shooting. Shooting at a prick.

Prince's lengths. The three distances of the York round.

Quartering wind. A wind blowing obliquely across the range.

Quiver. 1. A portable receptacle for arrows, carried attached to the person by a strap or hook.

2. The coming to rest of an arrow in what it hits. For example, "The arrow quivered in a tree," means that it stopped there, not that it trembled.

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Range. 1. A shooting ground.
2. A length or distance to be shot.

Reflexed bow. A bow in which a concave, obtuse angle is formed by the backs of the two limbs when unstrung.

Release. Same as *loose*.

Round. A prescribed number of shots at prescribed distances. There are ten recognized rounds, which are named and constituted as follows:

1. American Round	30	arrows	at	60	yards
	30	"	"	50	"
	30	"	"	40	"
2. Columbia Round	24	"	"	50	"
	24	"	"	40	"
	24	"	"	30	"
3. Hereford Round	48	"	"	80	"
	24	"	"	60	"
4. National Round	48	"	"	60	"
	24	"	"	50	"
5. Potomac Round	24	"	"	80	"
	24	"	"	70	"
	24	"	"	60	"
6. St. George's Round	36	"	"	100	"
	36	"	"	80	"
	36	"	"	60	"
7. St. Leonard's Round	36	"	"	80	"
	39	"	"	60	"
(Originally it was	75	"	"	60	"
8. Team Round, Men	96	"	"	60	"
9. Team Round, Women	96	"	"	50	"
10. York Round	72	"	"	100	"
	48	"	"	80	"
	24	"	"	60	"

Nos. 5, 6 and 7 of the above are practically obsolete.

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Rovers. An archery pastime which consists in shooting at one mark after another, each mark being at a distance from the last. It may be played over a prescribed course in a manner similar to golf or the marks may be selected at random.

Rover's mark. A mark shot at in rovers.

Roving. Playing rovers, not simply roaming.

Self arrow. An arrow made of a single piece of wood, not footed.

Self bow. A bow each limb of which is made of a single, unbacked piece of wood. It may or may not be fished at the grip.

Serving. Same as *Lapping.*

Set the shaft in the bow. To draw it so far that the tip catches on the belly.

Shaft. 1. The wooden part of an arrow. Also called *Stele.*
2. An arrow.

Shaft arm. The drawing arm.

Shaft hand. The drawing hand.

Shaftment. The part of an arrow where the feathers are.

Shake. A longitudinal crack in wood.

Sharp loose. A quick release.

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Sheaf of arrows. Twenty-four arrows in a case. Used in military archery.

Shilling. A measure of weight for arrows, of 87¼ grains.

Shooting glove. 1. In Scotland a large glove for the drawing hand with the first three fingers reinforced on the palmar surface and a pocket in the back for extra strings.

2. Any glove for the drawing hand, usually having the tips of the drawing fingers reinforced.

Shoot in a bow. The old English way of saying, "Shoot a bow."

Side wind. A wind blowing at right angles to the line of aim.

Sink a bow. To reduce its weight.

Slash. To loose in a quick, plucking manner.

Snake. 1. An arrow buried in the grass, lying flat to the ground.

2. For an arrow to bury itself in the grass.

Spell. A rising of the ends of the grain in the wood of a bow.

Splinter. A small, flat sliver of wood split from the back of a bow but still attached at one end.

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Spoon. Same as *Horn spoon* and *Petticoat.*

Spine. The degree of stiffness of an arrow.

Stagger. To wobble. Said of an arrow in flight. Also called *Wag.*

Standard yard. A measure of 36 inches.

Stele. The wooden part of an arrow.

Stopping. The solid part of a pile.

Sweet. Said of a bow which does not kick.

Stave or Bowstave. A long, slender piece of wood of which a bow may be made.

Tab. A flat piece of leather large enough to cover the palmar surface of the drawing fingers and used to prevent abrasion of the skin. It is kept in place by sticking the first and third fingers through hole. Between the first and second fingers is a slot for the nock of the arrow.

Tackle. All the equipment of an archer.

Tassel. A tassel, usually made of green worsted, suspended from the archer's belt to wipe his arrows with.

Tiller. A stick with notches in the side and ends, used to hold a bow drawn while it is being made or repaired. One end is placed against the inside of the handle

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and the string is caught in a notch at the desired distance.

Tillering. The act of using a tiller, including the scraping of the bow.

Tip. 1. A pile.

2. A reinforcement of leather on the fingers of a shooting glove.

3. To apply such reinforcements.

4. A thimble, or similar device of leather or other material, for each of the shooting fingers.

5. A bow horn.

Toxophilite. A student of archery; one who practices archery; one who studies the history and archeology of archery. (Century Dictionary.)

Toxophilitic. Relating or pertaining to archery or to the study of archery.

Trajectory. The path of an arrow in the air.

Turtle-back shooting. Shooting high in the air so that the arrow, on returning, may hit a target laid flat on the ground. So called because South American Indians are said to shoot turtles in that way.

Underbowed. Using a bow beneath one's strength.

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Underhand shooting. Shooting with the bow held so that the point of aim is seen under the bow hand.

Understrung. Said of a bow whose string is too long.

Up wind. A wind blowing from the target to the archer.

Vane. A piece of feather tied or glued to the shaft near the nock to direct the flight of an arrow. Three are usually placed on each arrow.

Wag. Same as *Stagger*.

Weight. 1. The avoirdupois weight of an arrow expressed in grains or in shillings and pence.

2. The force required to draw a bow the length of its arrow. For example, a man's bow weighing 46 pounds is one whose string will be drawn 28 inches from the back of the handle by a 46 pound stress.

Weight in hand. The avoirdupois weight of a bow.

Wen. An excrescence in the wood of a bow.

Whale backed bow. A bow whose belly is almost wedge shaped. (Duff.)

Whipping. Same as *Lapping*.

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Wide. An arrow is *wide* when it flies to one side or the other of the target.

Windage. 1. The influence of the wind in deflecting an arrow.
2. The extent of such deflection.
Also called *Drift.*

Wrapping. Same as *Lapping.*

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